Participation

Harris Fire Harris Ranch Road & Hwy 94 San Diego County



CALIFO



This fire has burned 90,440 acres and is 90 percent contained. The fire started on October 21 and is burning at Harris Ranch Road and both sides of Highway 94 in Portrero in San Diego County. Full containment is expected October 31. There have been 21 civilian and 34 firefighter injuries, as well as five deaths on this fire. 206 homes and 253 outbuildings have been destroyed, and 257 additional structures are damaged. Damage assessments, inspections and are in progress.

Power Power Power

All evacuations have been lifted. Re-entry for residents only is being allowed. 2,522 firefighters are assigned under a unified command. A military aerial infrared platform is being used to identify remaining hot spots. The estimated cost of this fire to date is \$13.8 million. Harris Fire Information Line (619) 449-1462.

Harris Fire Map 10/26/07
All Evacuation Orders Lifted 10/27/07
Relief Is In Sight As Firefighters Get Rest 10/28/07 Harris Fire Fact Sheet 10/30/07

Witch Fire Witch Creek Area East of Ramona San Diego County

This fire has burned 197,990 acres and is 97 percent contained. Full containment is expected on October 31. The Witch Fire has joined the Poomacha fire in the north. Residents are being allowed re-entry into the area.

1,040 homes and 414 outbuildings have been destroyed. 70 homes and 25 outbuildings have been damaged. Additionally, 239 vehicles have been destroyed.

2,002 firefighters are assigned to this incident under unified command. There have been 40 injuries to firefighters, and two civilian fatalities reported. The estimated cost of this fire to date is \$14.4 million. Witch Fire Information Line (619) 590-3160.

Witch Fire Map 10/26/07

Poomacha Fire Highway 76, Pauma Valley/Cleveland National Forest San Diego County

This fire started October 23 as a structure fire on the Lajolla Indian Reservation. It has burned 49,540 acres and is 70 percent contained. Full containment is expected Obtober 31. The Poomacha Fire has joined with the Witch Fire to the south. 143 homes and 77 outbuildings have been destroyed. 500 homes remain threatened in Mt. Palomar and Crosley Homestead.

Evacuations orders are still in place. Residential areas where the overall threat has lessened are being allowed re-enty. This fire has resulted in 21 firefighter injuries. 2,797 firefighters are currently assigned to this fire under unified command with CAL FIRE and the Cleveland National Forest. The estimated cost of this fire to date is \$9.2 million. Poomacha Fire Information Line (760) 751-7600.

Poomacha Fire Map 10/26/07

Slide Fire
San Bernardino National Forest
Green Valley Lake near Running Springs
San Bernardino County





1 450 1 41 2

Fire facts

October 26, 2007

The following is a list of the five major fires in San Diego County and some key characteristics of each including acres burned, communities affected and number of homes destroyed. It does not include the seven evacuation-related deaths.

WITCH CREEK FIRE

As of 8 p.m. yesterday

Area: Communities include Cuyamaca, Del Dios, Del Mar, Julian, Pine Hills, Poway, Ramona, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Santa Fe, Rincon, San Marcos, Santa Ysabel, Wildcat Canyon, Wynola and parts of southern Escondido

First reported: 12:35 p.m. Sunday

Acres burned: 198,000

Containment: 30 percent

Structures burned: 1,061 homes, 30 commercial properties and 175 outbuilding destroyed. 62 homes and 10 commercial properties damaged. Also, 239 automobiles destroyed.

Resources: 2,883 firefighters

Fire deaths: The charred remains of a couple were discovered Wednesday in a burned home on Highland Valley Road in unincorporated Poway. The county's medical examiner identified the couple as John Bain and his wife, Victoria Fox.

Injuries: 22 firefighters and two non-firefighters

Cause: Under investigation

HARRIS FIRE

As of 8 p.m. yesterday

Area: Communities include Barrett Junction, Carveacre, Deerhorn Valley, Dulzura, Engineer Springs, Jamul, Lawson Valley, Mount San Miguel, Potrero, Tecate and the outskirts of Spring Valley and Chula Vista

First reported: 9:23 a.m. Sunday

Acres burned: 84,000

Containment: 20 percent

Structures burned: 97 homes, two commercial buildings and 17 outbuildings destroyed. 250 homes

damaged

Resources: 1,341 firefighters

Fire deaths: Five people died during the fire, including four found yesterday in a canyon near state

Route 94 and Highway 188 west of Potrero

Injuries: Seven firefighters, 21 non-firefighters

Cause: Under investigation

POOMACHA FIRE

As of 8 p.m. yesterday

Area: Communities include Lake Wohlford, Lake Henshaw, Mesa Grande, Palomar Mountain, Pauma

Valley, Valley Center and the Pauma, La Jolla and Rincon Indian reservations.

First reported: 4:10 a.m. Tuesday

Acres burned: 38,500

Containment: 20 percent

Structures burned: 50 homes destroyed

Resources: About 900 firefighters

Fire deaths: none

Injuries: 12 firefighters, four non-firefighters

Cause: Structure fire, investigation continuing

HORNO FIRE

As of 8 p.m. yesterday

Area: Camp Pendleton, east of Interstate 5, and north and west between Las Pulgas Road and

Border Patrol checkpoint

First reported: 9:19 a.m. Tuesday

Acres burned: 17,000. Also, two smaller fires on base burned at least 270 acres before being

contained

Containment: 50 percent

Structures burned: None

First reported: 4:16 a.m. Monday

Acres burned: 9,500

Containment: 40 percent

Structures burned: 206 homes, including 120 mobile homes, two commercial buildings and 40

outbuildings destroyed

Resources: 1,073 firefighters

Fire deaths: None

Injuries: One firefighter

Cause: Downed power line

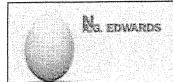
»Next Story»

Find this article at:

http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20071026/news_1n26facts.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© Copyright 2007 Union-Tribune Publishing Co. ? A Copley Newspaper Site











Unrelenting fires char S. California, at least half a million flee

- Story Highlights
- 3,000 Marines evacuated at Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego
- Defense Department firefighting teams fighting the blazes, official says
- President Bush is set to visit Southern California on Thursday
- More than a half-million people evacuated in San Diego County alone

SAN DIEGO, California (CNN) -- Relentless wildfires roared through Southern California for a third day Tuesday, sending more than half a million residents fleeing with family members, pets and whatever prize possessions they could fit in their vehicles.

The blazes have charred 400,000 acres and reduced 1,300 homes -- 1,000 in San Diego County -- to ash.

The fires have killed one person and injured more than 50. Earlier Tuesday, officials erroneously reported that a second person had died.

Earlier Tuesday, Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, said the number of evacuees "could very well approach 500,000 by the end of the day."

By Tuesday night, officials had evacuated nearly 350,000 homes in San Diego County. Using U.S. Census Bureau numbers from the 2000 census, that could mean as many as 950,000 were affected by the fires.

In San Diego County, at least 513,000 residents had been ordered to find refuge in shelters, schools and stadiums as fires pushed into new areas.

Twelve thousand more people were advised but not ordered to evacuate. Watch a fire official describe "utter devastation" »

President Bush will visit the area Thursday, the White House said. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff arrived in San Diego on Tuesday afternoon.

Chertoff promised a different federal reaction from the one in New Orleans in 2005.

"We have been preparing and planning and training together for the last 2½ years," he said.

And the scene at Qualcomm Stadium on Tuesday did seem to live up to Chertoff's expectations as volunteers cheerily handed out chairs, food and water.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency delivered 25,000 cots early Tuesday.

Watch report of a man who fled fire in Chula Vista »

Free newspapers were available, National Guard troops kept watch, ventriloquists and balloon artists entertained kids, and even massage therapists were trying to help the 12,000 to 15,000 evacuees relax as they fretted about the fate of their homes. Watch evacuees try to pass the time as they worry about their homes »

Meanwhile, at least two fires raged on the property of the U.S. Marines' Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego. Three-thousand

Marines were evacuated Tuesday evening.

Paul McHale, assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense, said 550 Camp Pendleton Marines were preparing to deploy to the fire area.

As the Santa Ana winds, which approached 70 mph, fueled the fires, 1,400 Navy personnel and their families were evacuated, the Pentagon said. See photos of the fires »

And in an effort to make room for more civilians who have had to evacuate their homes, sailors stationed in Southern California are abandoning their barracks.

McHale said that a dozen Defense Department firefighting teams, with 12 engines, were already working the blazes, and more than 17,000 National Guardsmen are potentially available if needed.

The Pentagon has provided 11 helicopters equipped with water buckets to fight the fires, he said. But aerial attacks on the fires have been minimal because of the fierce Santa Ana winds.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has already called up 1,500 National Guard troops, including more than 200 taken from border duty to help with supplies and security at Qualcomm Stadium and DelMar Fairgrounds and Racetrack, where thousands of evacuated residents are taking shelter.

Eighteen firefighters have been injured in the blazes, according to Schwarzenegger, who said Tuesday that he was "heartbroken" after touring the Lake Arrowhead area where the Grass Valley and Slide fires have burned 5,000 acres and destroyed more than 200 homes.

Lake Arrowhead resident Michelle Dresser, who owns a business and was chased from her home by a wildfire last year, said Tuesday she was waiting until the last minute to leave. She spent the night in her store, partly to help customers and neighbors. "It is crazy. We are surrounded by fire on both sides," she said.

Asked by CNN where she would go, she replied, "I have to find someplace to accept two dogs, two cats and a turtle."

Qualcomm Stadium is accepting animals.

New evacuation orders are being added frequently to the San Diego Office of Emergency Services Web site.

Officials said the crisis is far from over.

"It will not end ... until it reaches the ocean or the winds turn around," San Diego Fire Battalion Chief Bruce Cartelli said Tuesday. See where fires burn across Southern California »

Despite having 21 years of experience as a firefighter, Arthur Jackson marveled at the fires he battled. "It is just amazing how this fire selects whatever it wants and burns whatever it wants," he told CNN.

Although they were toiling in 24-hour shifts, Jackson said he and his fellow firefighters were "holding up pretty good." What weighed heaviest on them was not so much the physical exertion, he said, but knowing they had failed to protect all of the structures.

For some, the failure was more than a professional concern. "Some of the firefighters – their own homes have burned up," he said.

CNN's Dan Simon contributed to this report.

All AboutWildfires

Find this article at:

http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/23/wildfire.ca

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© 2007 Cable News Network.



OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2007

FACT SHEET

MAYOR SANDERS UNVEILS CITY'S REVERSE 911® EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION CALL SYSTEM

System Can Reach 240,000 Households/Businesses Per Hour

As part of National Preparedness Month and to further highlight the City's increased ability to respond to emergencies, Mayor Jerry Sanders today unveiled the City's new Reverse 911 emergency notification call system. The system can deliver emergency messages to as many as 240,000 households and businesses in an hour.

This web-based, community-alert notification system is designed to make mass telephone calls to the public in a timely manner during emergencies or disasters. The system uses a combination of databases and GIS mapping technologies to quickly target and effectively disseminate emergency notification calls to a precise geographic area.

The City of San Diego purchased Reverse 911® as another tool to rapidly broadcast emergency notifications to the public in the event of an emergency. The system hardware, software and three-year contract cost \$180,000. The system was paid for with Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Homeland Security grant funds.

When activated, the Reverse 911® system uses the 911 telephone database to initiate a voice mail broadcasted message via landline telephones to San Diego residents and businesses in the affected areas. A taped message delivers instructions on how to proceed during the ongoing emergency. Individuals using non-landline cellular and VoIP phones can also register their numbers online to receive the emergency calls.

WHEN WOULD REVERSE 911® BE ACTIVATED?

Reverse 911® would only be activated for the following emergency notifications:

- Evacuation notices
- Imminent or perceived threat to health, life or property within the City of San Diego
- Disaster notifications
- Public safety tests to verify data accuracy and system operability

HOW MANY CALLS CAN BE MADE?

- The Reverse 911® system offers a variety of features designed to meet small, medium, and large-scale-including citywide-notification needs.
- For large-scale disasters and emergencies, the City has the ability to activate the system's Mass Call® feature. This feature provides the ability to use a remotely located telecommunications hub with the capacity to make up to 240,000 30-second community emergency notifications per hour.
- During small- and medium-scale emergencies, the Reverse 911® system has the capacity to make two 30-second notifications a minute, giving the City the ability to broadcast a total of 11,520 notifications in an hour.
- If more than the 11,520 notifications are required in an hour, the City of San Diego can request assistance from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department via mutual aid. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department utilizes a similar Reverse 911® system which includes landlines within the city and can effectively double the notifications per hour to 23,040. When more than 23,040 calls need to be made in a given hour, the Mass Call® feature can be activated.

WHAT IS THE ACTIVATION PROCESS?

- An incident occurs and is reported.
- Reported incidents are routed to the San Diego Police Department Watch Commander.
- The Watch Commander initiates the relay of information through a prescribed chain of command.
- The information ultimately flows to the Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Public Safety and Homeland Security (DCOO).
- The DCOO notifies and consults with the Mayor, Chief Operating Officer, and Communications Director (Executive Team).
- Executive Team makes the decision to issue or not issue the Reverse 911® call.
- A series of final organizational steps are followed until the message is ultimately launched by the San Diego Police Department Communications Division.

HOW ARE THE DEFINED AREAS CHOSEN?

- Notification areas are defined by subject matter experts (Fire, Police, Water, etc.)
- The number of required calls is calculated by the system based on the defined area
- The City Executive Team decides on the appropriate call areas and approves the capacity deployment

WHO BROADCASTS THE REVERSE 911® MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC?

The City of San Diego Police Department is the entity that broadcasts the actual Reverse 911® emergency notifications to the public on behalf of the City of San Diego.

CAN CELLULAR PHONE/VOIP NUMBERS RECEIVE REVERSE 911® NOTIFICATIONS?

Although cellular phone numbers and VoIP numbers are not currently in the system database (because it only contains landline telephone numbers), these numbers can be added to the system.

To receive Reverse 911® on a cellular telephone or VoIP, an individual needs to complete the Reverse 911® Cellular/VoIP Addition Authorization Form on the City of San Diego Office of Homeland Security webpage at http://www.sandiego.gov/ohs.

Can The Hearing Impaired Receive Reverse 911® Notifications?

Persons using a TTY/TDD phone system will also receive Reverse 911® notifications.

WILL PERSONAL INFORMATION BE SHARED WITH ANYONE?

The City of San Diego will not share or distribute personal information gathered by the Reverse 911® Cellular/VoIP Addition Authorization Form and will use it solely for the purpose of providing community emergency notifications. Personal information is submitted on the form over a secure, encrypted connection for the public's protection.

The information is confidential and proprietary and will not be disclosed or used except by approved personnel only for the purpose of emergency notifications.

GREG SCHULTE

OFFICE OF

THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE

CITY ATTORNEY

CIVIL DIVISION
1200 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 1100
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-4178
TELEPHONE (619) 533-4710
FAX (619) 533-5856

October 30, 2007

INVESTIGATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

REVERSE 911 SYSTEM

In a fact sheet dated 9/6/2007 issued by Mayor Sanders, it states that the system hardware, software and a three year contract for the Reverse 911 System operated by the City of San Diego cost \$180,000. The system was paid for with an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Homeland Security grant. The sheet further states that the Reverse 911 System is broadcast by the San Diego Police Department.

On 10/26/2007 at about 11:45 am, I contacted a Police Dispatch Supervisor at the San Diego Police Department. He advised the following:

The Reverse 911 System for the City of San Diego is operated by the San Diego Police Department. Normal procedure is that an on-scene commander such as a police sergeant or fire department supervisor can contact the SDPD Communications Division and request that a reverse 911 message be sent out to city residents.

Normally messages are screened by the City of San Diego Office of Homeland Security (OHS) before they are sent out. However in an emergency, when there is no time, this is not always done.

On the evening of Sunday, October 21, 2007, a second supervisor was the on duty supervisor in the police communications division. The first supervisor did not come on duty until 4 am on Monday morning.

When the first supervisor did come on duty he was advised that a Reverse 911 message had been sent out between 9 pm and 10 pm on Sunday night. He does not recall who initiated this request, whether it was screened by the OHS before it went out, or to which city residents it was sent.

Some time between 5 am and 6 am he caused evacuation notifications to be sent via the Reverse 911 System to city residents living in the quadrant west of I-15, south of Del

Dios Highway, east of I-5 and north of I-56. He believes that a SDPD Sergeant was the on-scene commander who initiated the request.

He then stated that to give me a better timeline of event, he would have to consult another computer. He got my telephone number and stated that he would call me back. He further said that Jane Arnold at telephone number 619-533-6793 was his contact at the OHS. He later called the office of the City Attorney and left a message that all questions would have to be directed to OHS.

At about 12:15 pm I left a message for Arnold on her city voicemail system. I also left a message on the general OHS telephone number of 619-533-6760. In both I identified myself as a City Attorney Investigator

At about 1:10 pm I spoke to Assistant City Attorney Karen Heumann on her cell phone. She stated:

She and her family evacuated at 3:45 am on Monday morning. They lived on Polvera Avenue, San Diego (Rancho Bernardo). The house burned down at about 4:00 am. Her telephone was equipped with a remote voicemail that is still recording messages.

She received a Reverse 911 call on her voicemail at 9 am advising her to evacuate. This was five hours after her house burned down. She spoke to five neighbors who all advised that none of them got a Reverse 911 call before they evacuated their homes.

At 1:15 pm I contacted the second Police Dispatch Supervisor at his residence. He stated:

He was on duty as a Dispatch Supervisor on Sunday night until midnight. A SDPD Lieutenant staffed the SDPD DOC. The Executive Assistant Chief of Police was also at the DOC by late Sunday night.

He received a request from the California Department of Forestry sometime before midnight to initiate the first city Reverse 911 System notification for the San Pascual Valley area. That was the only Reverse 911 System deployment during his shift that night.

At 1:30 pm I received a telephone call from Lisa Stapleton, IT Manager for OHS in response to my call to the general OHS number. Her desk telephone number is 619-533-4492. She said that her office is in the CAB even though most of OHS is located in the World Trade Center on A Street in downtown San Diego. She said that OHS employee Jane Arnold had been evacuated and was currently in Lake Havasu, Arizona. She further stated:

On Sunday night OHS began to staff the Emergency Operation Center. Several city departments such as police and fire staffed their own Disaster Operation Centers next to

the EOC. When the call came in to initiate Reverse 911 notifications those requests were routed through the EOC/DOC.

OHS is directed by Jill Olen, the Deputy Chief Operating Officer of the city. Whenever possible, decisions on implementing Reverse 911 notifications are routed up to Olen and/or the Mayor's office.

Detailed logs are kept of all Reverse 911 notifications as to times, numbers called etc. A request for such information would have to be made to Jay Goldstone.

OHS has been drafting proposed Administrative Regulations on implementing the Reverse 911 notifications. Those AR's have not yet been adopted and are still in draft format. A copy of the draft could be obtained if the request is made to Mr. Goldstone.

An article in the San Diego Union Tribune dated 9/23/2007 titled "City's new alert plan is called outdated" quotes County Supervisor Ron Roberts as saying:

"the city could have found better use for its money...I think its kind of an extravagance. We (the county) will have a system that is operating that'll be far superior. And I don't see us continuing with that other (Reverse 911) contract...if the city thinks they have a reason to, God knows they have to explain that".

The article also states that the city purchased the Reverse 911 System in September 2006. The county purchased their system in August 2005. Both city and county systems were paid for with federal Homeland Security grants.

Jill Olen was quoted as saying:

"it was the best technology available at the time and will now provide a backup to the county's new system...We can test (the county's new system) for the near term, see if we like it. If we do like it and choose to use that over our Reverse 911 system, we can do that".

At 2:45 pm I spoke to Mark Davis on his cell phone. He is identified in a News 10 website article that said that his house burned down and he did not receive a Reverse 911 call. Accurint shows that he lived on Aguamiel Road, San Diego. I contacted Davis and identified myself as a City Attorney Investigator.

Davis stated:

His house was located above Lake Hodges and just west of I-15 in the northern section of Rancho Bernardo. He woke up at about 4:30 am on Monday morning and smelled smoke. He decided to evacuate himself and his wife and they fled by before 5 am. He is not sure when his house burned down.

They never received a Reverse 911 call. He has spoken to three or four of his neighbors. They all said that they did not get a Reverse 911 call before they evacuated.